

IRISH WATERING-PLACES.-YOUGHAL.

A MULTITUDE of tourists habitually visit the Irish shores. in quest of some of the less known but attractive summer haunts of the Sister Isles. They are found on every part of her shores, and all are more or less beautiful. From Port Stewart in the north to Youghal and Queenstown in the south, and from Howth and the aristocratic Kingstown in the east to the wild Atlantic-washed Kilkie in the west, the Irish Watering-places abound. Far behind, for the most part, our own marine resorts in luxurious accommodation, they excel us in the depth and purity of their waters; while their beaches, instead of having a surface of rough heavy shingle, stretch themselves away in firm smooth sands, unbroken for many miles.

Youghal is the second town in the vast county of Cork—the Yorkshire of Ireland. It is situated at the *embouchure* of the river, commemorated in the "Faerie Queene" as

Swift Awniduff, which of
the English man, Is cal' de
Blackwater ;"

the latter name being the English rendering of the original native appellation—i.e., *Amhon*, river or water, and *dubh*, black. Its scenic attractions have led to the Backwater being designated "the Irish Rhine." The town founded at its mouth is of remotest antiquity. It was called *Eo-chaille* (Anglicised into Youghal), or the Yew Wood, from its position at the base of a low range of hills, once clad with indigenous forests

of yew-trees. About a thousand years ago (A.D. 853), a large army of Norwegians, commanded by Amlavus, Ivorus, and Sitricus, three brothers of the Royal line of Norway, landed in Ireland. Dublin was seized and fortified by Amlavus; Limerick fell to the share of Ivorus, and Sitricus built the city of Waterford. A detachment of the troops of the Waterford Viking intrenched themselves at Eo-chaille on the Blackwater, where they built a fortress, and laid the foundations of a commercial sea-port. The "Annals of the Four Masters" record a great battle here, in 864, between the natives and the foreign intruders. In this year a victory was gained over the fleet of Eo chaille by the Deisi, and the fortress was destroyed. The Scandinavian Jarls were not, however, to be so easily dispossessed. A fine harbour and navigable river were too valuable prizes to be abandoned. Reinforcements of the Northmen poured in, and the native Deisi were, after a struggle, once more expelled. The town quickly grew into importance, and the highway to it became famous among the ancient roads of Munster. In the division of territory, which succeeded the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169, Youghal (or Okylle, as it was now written) was made the sea boundary of the properties granted on the Waterford side to Robert le Poer, and on the Cork side to Robert Fitz-Stephen and Miles de Cogan. From Fitz-Stephen the town passed into the hands of the Geraldines, who held it until the attainder and extinction of the house of Desmond, in the

reign of Elizabeth. Youghal was then granted to Sir Walter Raleigh, whose brief tenure of it has invented it with deep, romantic interest; and from him it was conveyed to the great Earl of Cork, who is now represented here by the Duke of Devonshire

Youghal was first incorporated by King John, in 1209, and had charters, or letters of privileges, from many succeeding Monarchs. The religious houses founded here were numerous. A friary for Franciscans, being the first of the kind in Ireland, was erected at the south end of the town, in 1224, by Maurice Fitzgerald, son of Gerald, Baron Ophaley, and grandson of the Maurice Fitzgerald, who was Fitz-Stepben's companion at the conquest of Waterford. At the Dissolution, the South Abbey was granted to George Isham, by letters patent, dated 16th June, 1597; and was subsequently purchased by the first Earl of Cork. A friary for Dominicans was founded, in 1268, by Thomas Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald, called *n Appagh* (the Ape); and continued to flourish until 1581, when it was dissolved; and, with six gardens within the liberties of Youghal, the tithes excepted, was granted to William Walsh; from whom it passed to John Thickpenny, and from him to Sir Walter Raleigh. The Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, in the High-street, was founded about the middle of the fourteenth century, by another member of the Jeraldine family; and, 27th December, 1464, Our Lady's College of Youghal, was founded by Thomas, eighth Earl of Desmond, a great benefactor to the town. The latter establishment consisted of a Warden, eight fellows, and eight choristers, who had a common table and all other necessaries allowed them, with yearly stipends, amounting to £600 per annum, a very considerable sum in those days.

But the glory of Youghal is the noble Collegiate Church of St. Mary's, one of the finest structures of its kind in Ireland. It forms a Latin cross; and consists of a nave with aisle, north transept with aisle at west side, a south transept, and a choir or chancel. In the angle of the nave and north transept stands a massive square tower, sixty-three feet high. In the corresponding angle, at the south side, stood a chantry chapel, now removed; and at the west-end of the south aisle was a similar chapel, which also has perished. The prevailing style of the church is the Early English of the 13th century; but there are traces of a Norman edifice antecedent to the present building, and now incorporated with it. The tombs are numerous, and of great interest. The antiquary will find several stone coffin-lids, Norman and Early English sepulchral arches, altar-tombs, recumbent and kneeling effigies, and many interesting efforts of the sculptor's art belonging to our own times.

The population of Youghal, by the Census of 1851, was found to be 9211, and the number of houses 1260.

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